## **REMARKS**

## A. RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

Claims 1-8 and 17 are elected for prosecution in this application without traverse.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 9-16, but reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to these claims in the future.

## **B. DELETION OF INVENTORS**

Cancellation of claims 9-16 has caused a change in inventorship. Specifically, only Hideaki KOMAKI and Kunio MATSUI are inventors of remaining claims 1-8 and 17. Applicants therefore respectfully request that Katsumi TAKAHASHI be deleted as an inventor.

The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for applicants under 37 C.F.R. § 1.33(b).

Respectfully submitted,

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, P.C.

Joerg-Uwe Szipl

Registration No. 31,799

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, P.C. Suite PH-1 2300 Ninth Street, South Arlington, VA 22204

Telephone: (703) 979-5700 Facsimile: (703) 979-7429 Email: g&s@szipl.com Customer No.: 24203